

**REMARKS**

Applicants respond to the Office Action mailed March 21, 2003, by canceling claims 1 and 29-96 and adding new claims 97-138. With entry of this Amendment, claims 97-138 will be pending. Applicants submit that new claims 97-138 do not contain any new matter and that all claims are fully supported by the specification. Support may be found, for example, in the section entitled "Descriptive Data Structures Can Be Used to Achieve A Degree of Interoperability Between Rights Management Environments," beginning on page 56 of the specification, as well as in Figures 10A and 10B, and other sections of the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 29-66 and 88-96 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection and, in particular, the Examiner's characterization of the claims as "conceptual abstractions that do not fall within the guidelines for statutory matter." Claim 29, for example, is directed to a method of interoperating a secure electronic container within a rights management data processing architecture. The method described is more than a "mere description and abstraction," as the Examiner suggests. However, without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants submit that with the cancellation of claims 1, 29-66 and 88-96, this rejection is now moot.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 29-96 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner's rejection was based in part on the use of the terms "descriptive data structure," "interoperability," "container," "secure container," "govern," and "aspect," among others. Applicants disagree with this rejection and submit that all terms are fully supported by the specification and understood by those

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skilled in the art. However, since all of these claims are canceled with this Amendment, Applicants submit that this rejection is also moot and therefore decline to submit further argument at this time. Applicants note that none of the terms questioned by the Examiner are used in new claims 97-138.

Claims 1 and 29-96 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and/or 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,876 to Johnson et al., either taken alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,995,756 to Hermann. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are also rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1 and 29-96. Applicants also submit that new claims 97-138 are patentable over the cited art.

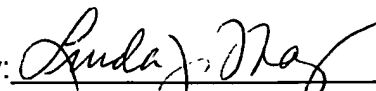
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Karna J. Nisewaner at (650) 849-6643.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
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